

one full percentage point. In America we imported 27 percent of the goods we consumed. That is up from 20 percent in the last 5 years. Led by the Department of Commerce, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Trade & Development Agency, and the Small Business Administration, all are encouraging opportunities for our small businesses and our communities.

We should be about this, Mr. Speaker, instead of saying that we are taking away from growth and quality of life. We should be expanding jobs and economic development.

□ 1120

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY SEEN AS CONTRACT WITH AMERICA MOVES AHEAD

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what a great week last week was. The House took a major and crucial step toward fiscal responsibility by passing the balanced budget amendment. If the Senate does the same, then fiscal restraint will be the law of the land.

But also important last week was the fact that the Republican Party delivered on a campaign promise. This is a lesson that all politicians need to learn in today's society. But a second thing that was very important about it was that it was done with a bipartisan vote. We had about 70 to 80 Democrats voting for this, and as we look at the other elements of the Contract With America that we will be considering this month, finalizing the unfunded mandates bill, passing the line item veto, criminal justice reform, review of our national security situation, and regulatory reform, let us hope that that same bipartisan spirit still prevails, because as the speaker before me said, we have a major trade deficit problem. We need to work on that.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work in a bipartisan fashion. We always do so much better when the Democrats and the Republicans work together.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the President called for a smaller, leaner, smarter government. I think we all agree. So today I am introducing a bill to eliminate the dumbest program in the entire Federal Government, the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

This piece of petrified pork was put in the budget in 1903 during the Spanish-American War, Mr. Speaker, to teach Americans how to shoot straight. Ninety years later high-tech weapons have replaced rifles. It is time to de-

clare victory and delete this wasteful program.

While we are fighting very hard to get guns off the street, Mr. Speaker, this program hands out 40 million rounds of free ammunition, sells surplus guns, and conducts an annual shooting match. We have too much debt and too many needs to subsidize recreational shooting.

This program is nothing more than a special interest boondoggle. Any Member who has ever campaigned against special interest politics should be embarrassed to vote for it.

TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO STOP BICKERING AND LEGISLATE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, how silly we must look to the people beyond the beltway. They sent us here to govern and to make changes, but what do we do? We bicker, we quarrel, we argue. And over what? The things that the American people really want? No. We argue over pointless points of order, we offer a multitude of meaningless amendments. We bicker over supposed insults to each other's honor and integrity in ways that make many people wonder whether we have either.

To the folks back home this place must seem more like the children's playground than the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the minority to get over it and get on with the business of the people, because if we continue to make this august body look more like a playground than a legislature, the American people who have already lost their patience will also lose their hope. The time for play is over.

Let us get down to real work.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW HOUSE MEMBERS TO RETURN SURPLUS FUNDS TO THE TREASURY

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Speaker GINGRICH said that he wanted to start a new idea in the House of Representatives and call it "Correction Day." He said to the American Hospital Association that he wants to start 1 day a month where Congress can act on a list of "the dumbest things the Federal Government is doing and just abolish them."

I would give the Speaker a recommendation that starts right here in this body. I have introduced a bill, H.R. 26, that has 52 Democrats and Republicans as cosponsors on it which would say that when we as Members of Congress save money in our office accounts and return money to the U.S. Government, we can have that money go directly to the U.S. Treasury to reduce

the deficit rather than back into a slush fund that is spent on other Members of Congress who exceed their mail accounts.

Mr. Speaker, let us look in a bipartisan way to pass H.R. 26 and continue our efforts as we started last week to balance this budget.

THE UNITED NATIONS TAKES OVER IN HAITI

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I read in the paper this morning that the United Nations is going to take over the Haiti mission because things are stable and secure in that country now. Of course, they are still going to rely mainly on U.S. troops down there, but there will be new rules of engagement. We are only going to use weapons in self-defense.

But then we read on a little further, and our Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador Albright, says, "But if this U.N. force is pushed, it has the leaders, the mandate, the firepower, and the will to push back."

Now, I call that doublespeak. That is the kind of thing that confuses our troops, it confuses us, it confuses our allies, but it probably does not confuse our enemies.

It raises the specter of our troops under foreign command in another country, under U.N. command, under Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and it causes us problems because we do not know what their mission is.

Ambassador Albright also said that Aristide has wide popular support, and that is true. But she failed to say that apparently the United Nations is unaware that there is intense brutal opposition to Aristide as well. So all is not well, and we should keep our eyes on foreign policy in Haiti.

WHAT IS TRULY BEHIND THE \$40 BILLION?

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, what is truly behind the \$40 billion in loan guarantees to Mexico? Some have called it a bailout for Mexico, but I might call it a bailout for the banks and wealthy financiers and investors in the Mexican markets.

Mr. Speaker, there is risk involved in every investment. These institutions and individuals knew full well what was in front of them. They made the investments; we did not. And now that the investments have soured some, it should not be the responsibility of the United States to make up their losses.

Now the President is going to act on his own. He is going to bypass Congress because he knows it is not going to pass the U.S. Congress.